

# The Historacle

*The Official Newsletter of the*

## Talent Historical Society

*Where The Past Meets The Future*



206 East Main, Suite C • P.O. Box 582 • Talent, Oregon 97540 • 541/512-8838

March 2002

## THS EXPANSION PLANS

In January THS board president Lynn Newbry signed a contract with the City of Talent which allows THS to expand our facilities into the basement room of the Talent Community Center. This will give us a lot more room—room for nice exhibits, room for an expanded Sales Shoppe, room for a research library, room for a more efficient office, room to be a real museum!! Can you tell that we're excited??!

Before we can start moving things around, the basement room must be waterproofed and have some renovation done to it. The City is responsible for soliciting bids for the waterproofing, THS will approve one selected bid, then the work will begin. THS has a special fund, known as the "New Site Fund," that was created as a result of a generous donation from the Ida Schmidt trust fund. These funds will go towards paying for the waterproofing. If there's any money left over, it will go towards renovating the room to make it suitable to move into. Beyond that, we will be applying for grants and doing other types of fund-raising. If you wish to make a contribution, either in cash, materials, or labor, we will most gratefully accept it. Any monetary donations should be marked for the renovation.

Specific items that we are interested in obtaining for the new museum are: a male mannequin and a suit of clothes of the late 1800s style; orchard and packing house antiques; a female mannequin and an everyday outfit from the '30s or '40s.

*Come help us grow!*



## SPRING FLING MARCH 17



March is Women's History month and traditionally THS has had some type of program during which certain women from Talent, both living and dead, were honored for their significant contributions to the Talent community. This year we decided to do something different—we decided to invite the community to come for an afternoon of fun.

Featured talent (pun intended!) will include hometown Western singer Lorraine Rawls, and her friends Crystal Reeves and Brian Freeman; storyteller Twilo Schofield; Just In Time, a women's barbershop quartet; assorted area artisans and crafters, and an old timey fashion show. A potluck lunch will be served first, so please bring a favorite dish. Food heating facilities are limited, so keep that in mind.

Plan now to be at our Spring Fling on March 17 beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Talent Community Center. For more information, call Marian or Alice at 512-8838.



# MAY IS PERSONAL HISTORY AWARENESS MONTH

As genealogists, you all know how wonderful and exciting it is to uncover, bit by bit, your ancestors' stories. You consider it a treasure to find something that tells their stories in more depth such as letters, journals, and other personal papers. Unfortunately, we all neglect giving our own descendants—and ourselves—this wonderful gift, the gift of our life stories and personal history!

There are numerous reasons to record your life stories. Imagine the reaction of your spouse and/or children, hearing stories about you that they'd never known. Imagine the reaction of your grandchildren and great grandchildren reading your stories, finding out about life in a different time, but realizing that you're really not so different from them after all. Imagine your own peace of mind, reminiscing about your past and finding a new understanding for experiences through the perspective of someone older and wiser.

The time is now! If you haven't started writing your life stories, take out a piece of paper or a notepad and start taking notes—notes that you will turn into stories—or plan how you might do a video or audio recording to leave behind for future generations. Then visit the Web site for the Association of Personal Historians (APH) at <http://www.personalhistorians.org>. (The APH is an organization dedicated to helping others preserve their life stories.) There you will find pointers on helping you record your own life stories if you're ready to go at it on your own. If you're not quite sure where to begin, the APH has members all over the U.S., and some in Canada, Australia, and Japan, that would love to help you record your life stories. There are countless ways to preserve your stories and memories, but remember that no one can do it but you!

## A Bit About Wood

*Editor's note: This poem was found in a pile of newspaper clippings kept by Effie Chapman Shrum, and dates about 1911.*

Beech wood fires are bright and clear  
If the logs are kept a year.  
Chestnut's only good they say  
If for long it's laid away.  
Birch and fir logs burn too fast,  
Blaze up bright and do not last.  
Elmwood burns like a churchyard mold;  
Even the very flames are cold.  
Poplar gives a bitter smoke,  
Fills your eyes and makes you choke.  
Applewood will scent your room,  
With an incense like perfume.  
Oak and maple, if dry and old,  
Keep away the winter cold.  
But ash wood wet and ash wood dry  
A King shall warm his slippers by.





## BRIC-A-BRAC

# Welcome

THS welcomed some new members into the Society in the past couple of months. They are:

**Joy Cook, Barbara Haade, John Hamilton,  
Joe & Kathy Hunkins, Karen Sundwick,  
and Dwayne Guthrie.**

We are pleased to introduce our newest volunteer, Joy Cook. Joy comes to us with a degree in history and a background in sales and fund-raising. (Boy, are we going to use her!!) With her happy smile, sparkly eyes and bubbly personality, she has really brightened up the THS office! We are so happy to have her. *Welcome, Joy!*

- G**ive your self or someone you love a unique gift from the THS Sales Shoppe. New items include:
- ✓ A new assortment of color photo note cards featuring historic Talent homes, the Wood House of Eagle Point, and Crater Lake.
  - ✓ Our new cookbook is in, also, to which some of you contributed recipes. Titled "Generations of Talented Cooks," it contains a wide range of recipes all the way from vegan to how to prepare a gopher. At only \$8.00 per copy, you'll want one for yourself and several for gifts.
  - ✓ We have some beautiful 24k gold-plated ornaments that depict the State of Oregon, the Oregon Trail, and the U.S.A. These are very nice for only \$3.00 and \$3.50.

### GRANT AWARDED THS

The Trust Management Services, LLC has awarded THS a grant of \$2908 to support our photography project. Because photographs fade, are easily damaged, people move away, pass on photographs to family members, the images of the past are easily lost. In order to preserve the pictorial history of the Talent community we applied to Trust Management for assistance, and they have honored our request. This gift allows us to buy a digital camera, the supplies and equipment necessary to collect copy, store, catalog and index 500 or more new images and make 100 negatives. It also makes it possible for us to purchase an exhibit unit to display these images in the museum. The digital camera collects images on CD-ROM which allows us to print out copies of pictures on high quality photographic paper, retouch, enhance, and mend damaged prints, and store images indefinitely. This technology will be shared with other museums in Jackson County. We now can photograph historically significant pictures at your own home, and do not need pictures to be donated or loaned to us. If you have pictures of historical value, please contact us! Thank you, Trust Management Services!!!



The Wilsonville, Oregon, Public Library announces the formation of its new Heritage Collection for the use of genealogists, local historians, and other interested parties. The collection includes all Oregon Federal Census microfilms (1850-1920, and 1930 when available), a large variety of local and county histories and biographies, birth, marriage, and death records, newspaper microfilm, various indexes, and access to free and paid online databases, among much else. For further information, please contact the Library at 503-682-2744, or refer to the Library's genealogy page: <http://www.wilsonville.lib.or.us/herit.htm>.



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM PLANS TO MOVE TO PHOENIX CEMETERY LOCATION

The museum operated by the Phoenix Historical Society at 110 W. 2nd Street in Phoenix may only be at that location until this coming summer. The Society is in the process of obtaining the necessary permits to move the existing building to a much more visible spot in front of the Phoenix Cemetery. At one time a little church among the pines stood at the desired spot, according to PHS volunteer Dorothy Claflin.

At present the museum houses a permanent display featuring the story and life of Samuel Colver, the man after whom Colver Road is named. He also was the man who plotted out the city of Phoenix. The Colver House, built prior to the Rogue River Indian Wars, still stands on the right hand side of Highway 99 just before the one-way road system ends as a driver heads south to Talent. It is currently a private residence, but a portion of the large log structure which was built originally as a safe place for residents of the area to gather for protection during the conflicts of the 1850s can be seen through a glass display on the front of the building.

The Phoenix Museum also houses a military display including memorabilia from Capt. Milo Caton, a veteran of the Civil War. The exhibit also features uniforms of World War II for both men and women, in addition to other items from other armed conflicts.

A photo exhibit of old schools is also displayed. Museum goers who want to know what school buildings were like before the currently use school buildings came into existence can do so with this photo exhibit. Other school related material include a number of annuals and other school pictures which are available for viewing.

Currently on display are materials that focus on the Towne family. The Towne house still stands at the corner of 2nd and Church Streets. It is still a private residence and looks much like it did when the Townes owned the structure. Mr. Towne was a Phoenix merchant and postmaster. On display is a desk that was used in the old mercantile post office, courtesy of the Southern Oregon Historical

Society. One of the Towne daughters was among the first women to serve in the Oregon legislature.

Museum lovers will find the Phoenix Historical Society Museum hours convenient. The Museum is open Monday through Thursday from 1:00 P. M. to 5:00 P. M. during the months of January and February. Beginning in March, the museum will also be open on Fridays as well at the same hours.

*Eli and James Anderson took large land claims west of Wagner Crossing on what is now Wagner Creek (Anderson Creek and Anderson Butte are both named after the Anderson family.)*

The **Historacle** is published quarterly by the  
Talent Historical Society

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Talent Community Center • Talent, Oregon 97540

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President	John Morrison
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## MUSEUM STAFF

Museum Director	Marian Angele, Ph.D.
Office Manager	Alice Ray
Volunteer Office Assistants	Ralph Hunkins
	Lorraine Mussack

## TITLED VOLUNTEERS

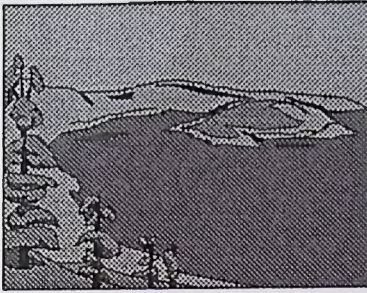
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Oral Historians	Joe Cowley
	Nancy Fox
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Newsletter Layout/	
Graphic Design	Alice Ray/Majestic West

Comments & letters may be sent to the Editor, **The Historacle**, by mail or by e-mail [thsmuseum@earthlink.net](mailto:thsmuseum@earthlink.net). Members of the Society receive **The Historacle** free with membership.



# KLAMATH COUNTY

## WHAT TO SEE EAST OF THE CASCADES



**Crater Lake**, located in Oregon's only National Park, is the deepest lake in the USA, and probably the bluest. Concession services are available year round with boat tours around the lake (but only in the summer), skiing, hiking, camping and lodging also on a seasonal basis. There is a Rim Drive around the lake which offers spectacular views of the six mile wide caldera created when Mt. Mazama collapsed in a massive volcanic explosion about 6,000 years ago. Recent scientific submarine exploration has discovered hot spots still exist at the bottom of the lake. Crater Lake is a "must see"

geologic attraction. The historical Crater Lake Lodge is open for visitors for lodging and dining. Reservations are suggested. For park information call (541) 594-2211.

From Crater Lake, you can easily drive south to Klamath Falls. Stop by the first military fort in the territory at **Fort Klamath**, one mile south of the town, visit the museum and see the graves of the famous Indian chief Captain Jack and his warriors. Fort Klamath was the first military post in the region (1863). Oregon's early logging history can be seen at the **Collier State Park and Logging Museum**, one of the finest collections of logging equipment in the country.

Fort Klamath was founded in 1863 to provide protection from the Klamath and Modoc Indians to travelers on the Applegate Immigrant trail. The museum depicts military and Native American history as well as the site of the graves of the famous Modoc warriors. Early pioneer history of the area is also displayed. Today the area is a mecca for expansive ranches. There are excellent resorts for fly-fishing, canoeing and camping.

**Klamath Lake** is the largest natural lake in Oregon and the most diverse. At the south end of the lake, anchored by the city of Klamath Falls, you'll find lakeside parks, several marinas and the Klamath Yacht Club. Both sail and motor boating are very popular. Fishermen consider trophy size rainbows "daily fare" in the Pelican Bay area and bird watcher enjoy a multitude of water fowl and bald eagles. Resorts and marinas dot the high desert west side of the lake. Highway 97 goes along the east side of the lake, and Highway 140 lies on the timbered west side.

In Klamath Falls, the **Favell Museum** features Indian Artifacts from the Western States and contemporary Western art of over 300 artists. Exhibits spanning prehistoric Native American, Victorian life and general history are to be found at the **Baldwin and County museums**.

The route of the **Applegate Trail** follows along Highway 66 between Klamath Falls and Ashland. There is also a new marker on Highway 97 at the California border, showing where Jesse Applegate, in 1846, led a group of 15 men over the Southern Cascades seeking an easier route than the Oregon Trail into the Pacific Northwest. Part of the old trail can be seen at **Tubb Springs**, a State Park on Highway 66, 18 miles east of Ashland, but you have to look hard to find it.

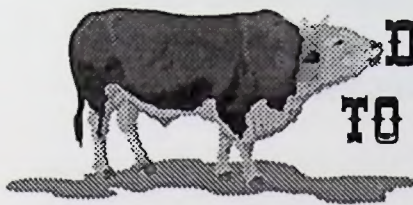
Paddle ancient **Klamath Indian canoe trails** (now maintained by the National Forest Service) on Klamath Lake to discover one of the Klamath Basin's seven bird sanctuaries. In the heart of the **Pacific Flyway**. In the city of Klamath Falls walk the **Wingwatchers Trail** or the mile long **Link River Nature Trail** to view hundreds of species of birds, including the huge white pelicans, blue-grey herons and tall white egrets.

The main attraction of the Klamath Basin in winter is the large population of wintering bald eagles, up to a thousand in some years. Several hundred roost in the Bear River Valley south of Klamath Falls, Oregon and can be seen flying to the refuge at first light. Flights are largest in January and February. The eagles are attracted to the area due to the large numbers of waterfowl which winter here.

Though the area experiences very cold weather during much of the winter, large bodies of water like

Continued on page 8





## DRIVE THOSE HERDS DOWN THE TRAIL TO NEVADA, WYOMING AND MONTANA

Students of Western history, and those who watch the Hollywood westerns on late night television, are aware that cattle drives were part of the development of the west. Most recently, the Lonesome Dove epic records one fictional version of the trailherds that moved from Texas to Montana. The Chisholm Trail and the infamous world of Dodge City are all recorded in popular culture. However, Oregon and Douglas County had its own animal drives as well.

The first recorded drive was that of Ewing Young in 1837 when he and 13 other pioneer settlers drove 800 head of California cattle from Sacramento to the Salem area, up over the Siskiyou, through Douglas County, and arriving finally in Oregon after nine months with some 600 head of cattle, breaking the stranglehold that the Hudson Bay Company had by only leasing domestic cattle to American settlers, and requiring that the offspring be returned to Hudson Bay.

Other animal drives included cattle drives to the Comstock mines in Nevada from Oregon. Not only cattle, like the drive that ended with the massacre of Bailey and Evans, in Northern California west of Alturas, but pig drives as well. In fact, one of the pig drives was apparently attacked by hostile natives in the Cow Creek Canyon south of Riddle, and the pigs scattered, breeding groups of feral pigs that reportedly were still thriving in the Rogue River canyon in the early 1950s.

But the best recorded of the cattle and horse drives that originated in Douglas County are respectively those of Raphael Dixon, of, yes, Dixonville; and John Chapman, who ultimately settled in Red Lodge, Montana.

Dixon, who was one of the major landowners east of Roseburg, owning land on the North Umpqua as well as the home ranch just east of Dixonville, now the property of Roseburg Forest Products, conducted several drives to Eastern Oregon, each apparently culminating at the stockyards in Winnemucca, Nevada. He would hire a crew to trail cattle up Little River and up the South Umpqua (he also owned property at the mouth of Jackson Creek) over the Cascades, where the cows feasted on the grass in and around the Klamath marshes, and then moving them eastward past Lakeview to the Steens Mountains, and in the fall of the year, after the cattle had fattened on south to Winnemucca and the railroad. All this prior to the railroad, which reached Roseburg in 1872. He apparently financed and operated these drives annually for a number of times in the 1870s. On one of these trail drives, the herd was attacked by Indians during the time of the Bannock War and Tom Dixon, Raphael's brother and others were killed. Similar attacks at that time killed the George C. Smith family, former residents of Douglas County, and related through the

marriage of their daughter to Stilley Riddle of the Riddles of Cow Creek. This happened in 1878.

Perhaps the most interesting, and well recorded trail drives were two conducted by John Chapman. He was the son of Artemesia Riddle Chapman and James Chapman. In 1878, he had driven a herd of cattle to Cody, Wyoming. While there, he built a log cabin, and returned to Southern Oregon. He visited his mother Artemesia who had married William Merriman and moved to the Rogue River Valley. Collecting horses this time, he came up to the Canyonville area to visit his Riddle uncles, and Alpha Chapman, the daughter of Addison Chapman, a pioneer of 1854 who had taken up a donation land claim east of Canyonville. Obviously, this was a continuation of a romance, for the young couple married, and with 600 head of horses, set off five days after their marriage for Cody, Wyoming, a journey which took six months, limited no doubt by the need to graze 600 head of horses and have them be healthy upon arrival in Wyoming.

Along the way, Alpha felt the need to wash her silk blouses, and wash them she did, hanging them out on the sage brush overnight to dry. According to the family stories, when she went to get her blouses the next morning, the crickets had eaten them. However, she did not need to worry...silk blouses were soon to become common to her. Upon arrival near Cody, her husband John immediately set out to build his wife a two story stone house, which they converted into a stage stop. As time went on, the fortunes of the Chapman family increased and as Paul Harvey would say, "Now here is the rest of the story."

Eventually, John and Alpha acquired some 4,000 acres of land and controlled about 30,000 more between Cody and Red Lodge, Montana becoming the largest land owner in the area. John went into the banking business in Red Lodge, becoming known as "Old 10% Chapman" for he charged ten percent daily on loans. He was bank president until the day he died in 1933, at the depth of the Depression, at which time Alpha took over the presidency and operated the bank until her death in 1950. The Bureau of Land Management named an area there Chapman Bench after John Chapman. Their ranch was known as the 4-Dot after they sold it and devoted their time to banking.

Apparently the cattle drives to Wyoming and Montana were designed to change the character of the longhorn cattle driven up from Texas into some other strain, softened by Durham and Hereford blood lines. Douglas County cattle drives, once well-known and obviously profitable, are now a forgotten memory, lost in the fog of history.



# OREGON TRAIL---JUST A FEW RANDOM FACTS

## CONTINUED

*What did the emigrants eat coming west?*

Breakfast: coffee, bacon, dry or pilot bread. Dinner (lunch): coffee, cold beans, bacon or buffalo or antelope meat. Supper: tea, boiled rice, and dried beef or codfish. Tasty, huh? Imagine the joy felt when the first cabin over Mt. Hood had an apple orchard and an owner willing to share the fresh fruit? Or the Beesons when they entered the Rogue Valley and bought a farm with a garden? A number of travelers made a point of carrying along citric acid, vinegar, pickles, dried fruit and vegetables. Others used wild plants to provide vegetables. If these antiscorbutics were not in the emigrant's diet and did not utilize fresh vegetables on the way, they might fall victim to scurvy on the 1st third of the trip due to lack of vitamin C.

*How many emigrants died on the way west?*

On the California Trail (that is the Oregon Trail to Idaho and then down the Humboldt to California) the conservative estimate is 20,000, or an average of ten graves to the mile. The mortality on the Oregon Trail was estimated to be about 4 to 6 percent of those who left the States. Asiatic cholera was the main killer, a consequence of polluted water.

*How many buffalo actually existed before the whites started west?*

Take your pick. Francis Haines says 40 million scattered over half of the North American continent. Charles Robinson says some estimates run as high as 60 million, and Hoebrl and Wallace report estimates of at least a 100 million—that's enough to make a lot of water polluted.

*In a given year, how many emigrants came west?*

1812 to 1848 — 5000 to Salt Lake; 10,000 to Oregon; 2000 to California.

1849 — Probably 40,000 and that includes those who did not choose to register at Fort Kearny or Fort Laramie.

1850 — Close to 65,000. This was the most deadly year, 5000 died mostly from cholera.

1852 — Some 70,000 more or less.

1853 — Nearly 35,000.

1854 — Total: 20,000 (about half to Utah, and over half to California).

1855 — 7,000 but most went to Utah.

1856 — An estimated 12,000 with two-thirds going to California.

1857 — No more than 6,000, again two-thirds to California.

1858 — Probably 7500.

1859 — Unknown, but about 60,000 of an estimated 80,000 went to the Colorado gold fields.

1860 — Maybe 20,000.

1861 — Less than 10,000, although some Westerners went East to fight in the Civil War.

1862 — About 20,000, the discover of silver and gold in Eastern Oregon at Canyon City, Grant County, Oregon, and in Montana spurred the increase.

1863 — About 20,000.

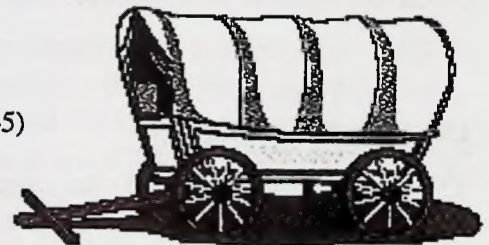
1864 — 40,000 to Montana, using the Bozeman Trail north.

1865 — No more than 20,000 to Utah and California.

1866 — About 25,000.

(The data was taken from Merrill Mattes, Platte River Narratives, pp. 2-5)

*The final installment of this Oregon Trail trivia will be in the next issue.*



The Greensprings was so-called because of the many springs that provided water to the emigrants who had just crossed Nevada's Black Rock Desert and were as parched as their stock.



Continued from page 5

**Tule and Upper Klamath Lake** often remain unfrozen. Large masses of waterfowl prevent some of the smaller bodies from freezing over during short spells of severe weather as they mill about.

With such large numbers of waterfowl in the area, some are certain to die each night of hunger, disease, or old age. Bald eagles, never eager to hunt when a freshly dead and well-refrigerated carcass can be found, scavenge each morning. By noon, most have fed and are roosting in scattered groups all over the basin.

Directions to the **Bald Eagle Flyout**:

Drive south from Klamath Falls on Highway 97 to the town of **Worden**, which largely consists of a truck stop named the Worden Cafe. Directly south of town, turn west (right) on the first road, which is marked as leading to Ashland.

The road crosses an unprotected railroad crossing almost immediately. Just beyond, take the dirt road to the left. Drive a couple of hundred yards along this road until you have a clear view to the west, and park. The eagles fly out at dawn from the roost which lies several miles to the southwest of this point, passing overhead to the refuge behind you.

**Lava Beds National Monument** lies east of Highway 139 south of Klamath Falls about 40 miles into California. This area was the scene of the Modoc Indian War 1872-73, where the Indians held out against large military units for five winter months. This was the last major battle between Indians and the U.S. Army. Here extinct volcanos, natural bridges and underground lava tunnels and caves are open to exploration. The monument

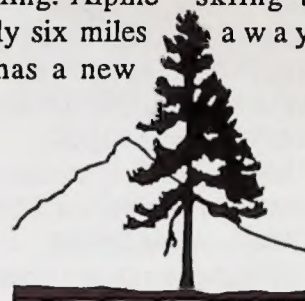
furnishes lanterns for exploration at the Visitor's Center...and there is an excellent campground. The Center lies several miles south of the Stronghold where Captain Jack withstood a large U. S. Army force for several months with only 157 Indians which included women and children. The military could never dislodge the Modocs from the Stronghold. There are several trails through the Stronghold which are quite easy to traverse.

### **NORTHERN KLAMATH COUNTY**

If you travel from Klamath Falls north on Highway 97, you'll discover that historic mill towns like Chemult, Crescent and Gilchrist offer numerous more gateways to outdoor adventure.

**CRESCENT LAKE**—Off highway 97, 95 miles north of Klamath Falls offers a resort on the lake, furnished cottages, RV parking, campgrounds including a superb new one that is wheel chair accessible, all summer and winter spots, and, of course, fishing and hunting in season. There is even a 650 foot air strip.

**ODELL LAKE**—98 miles north of Klamath Falls off Highway 97. A gem of a lake over five miles long and 300' deep. At 4800 feet elevation it provides an ideal habitat for Kokanee Salmon, Macinaw lake trout and native rainbows. Marinas and boat rentals are available at the lodges and resorts on both sides of the lake. Snow play is popular in the winter with trails for cross country skiing and snowmobiling. Alpine skiing at Willamette Pass is only six miles away. The Forest Service has a new snowpark.



Continued from page 10

TV, were told about these and other events that took place in Europe nearly 500 years ago.

Today, our leaders blithely tout American values and American ideals—liberty, equality, the rule of law, human rights, free speech and association, constitutional government, separation of church from state, and the idea that governments should be, using Abraham Lincoln's language "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

None of these essential American beliefs will be preserved and take root in the coming generations of Americans unless they possess a world view that makes maintenance of this ideology possible. We cannot expect this to happen unless we know our own history—national, regional, state and local. It is this essential need that mandates an increased attention to the teaching of history in our schools, and makes the activities of historical societies like the Southern Oregon Historical Society, the Phoenix Historical Society, and the Talent Historical Society necessary and worthy of much greater support that either the schools or these collateral agencies now receive.



# DOWNSTREAM CALENDAR

"If we forget where we came from, we will never get to where we are going!"

**Talent Historical Society Museum,**  
**Talent Community Center.**

**Museum Open hours:**

**Mon.—Sat. 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

**March 14, Thursday 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.**  
**JCHMA meeting**

**March 17, Sunday 1:00 p.m.**  
**Talent Community Center**  
**Spring Fling—potluck lunch, entertainment, arts**  
**and crafts displays and sales, FUN! See you there!**

**March 26, Thursday 6:00 p.m.**  
**Talent Library.**  
**Board meeting of the Talent Historical Society**  
**directors. Members and general public invited**  
**to attend.**

**April 11, Thursday, 10:00 a.m.**  
**JCHMA meeting**

**April 23, Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Talent Library.**  
**Board meeting of the Talent Historical Society**  
**directors. Members and general public invited**  
**to attend.**

**May 9, Thursday, 10:00 a.m.**  
**JCHMA meeting**

**May 28, Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Talent Library**  
**Board meeting of the Talent Historical Society**  
**directors. Members and general public invited**  
**to attend.**



## OVERHEARD

*One cold January day in 2001, several folks gathered in the Talent Historical Society and began swapping stories. What follows is just an excerpt from that afternoon. Wanda Gibbs and Joe Cowley are the speakers.*

**Wanda:** Harry and David was here, they were getting established in Thirty-four, and we hadn't moved out bodily until Thirty-six. ... In fact, they used to give the pears away because nobody knew, they didn't know what to do with them. They were such nice pears, and they just raised them and raised them and they didn't know what to do with them. So, everybody would back their trucks under this chute and get a truckload of pears. Well, then you'd feed them to your cows or whatever. But they were so sweet they rotted all the pigs' teeth out.

**Joe:** Charlie Hoover figured out that he could fatten his hogs probably cheaper than anybody else and do it a lot easier. So he went around to the various packing houses and gathered up the cull pears and at that time, at the Camp White area, was still not quite developed. And they still had the old concrete runways for the military camp and so he bought that property and then he got these pears and a big dump truck and he spread them out over the concrete runway and then he had a bulldozer and he'd take the blade and he'd go along and just chop these pears to the sun could get at them and dry them out and they'd look just like pieces of driftwood on the beach. And then he'd put a couple of big sacks of grain in the back of his pickup truck. Usually one of his sons would hop in the back, you know, and make sure they didn't spill the grain, then Charlie—I rode with him one time—and Charlie'd honk the horn two or three times and all these hogs came from all over the place and crowded that truck and rocked it back and forth. I was really kind of scared. And Charlie went along honking his horn and pouring the grain out on the runway and the hogs were gobbling it up and eating up the pears. He made good money in that. A lot of people laughed at him—that old Charlie Hoover, he's always doing something different.



## EDITORIAL



### HISTORY: AMERICANS AND THE REST OF THE WORLD

Americans seem to lack a sense of history. We do not see it as a significant force that undergirds our every day lives. However, even the illiterates, or perhaps especially the illiterates, and the literate in the rest of the world have a totally different viewpoint. To them Henry Ford was wrong when he said, "history is bunk!" Too many Americans act like Ford was simply stating

an attitude that they share deeply.

Perhaps this is due to our own history. We are a nation of emigrants, except for those lucky enough to be Native Americans. All the rest came from somewhere else to these shores and in so doing, shed the culture that once motivated their lives—the traditions, often the language of the birth, the ways of thinking and values that a culture etches into the mind and patterns of behavior of its people. We all came here to be something other than what we had been. In so doing we often felt no need to keep a historical memory, for only the future was important.

Today, we are confronted as a nation and as a nation that is just a little over 200 years old, with ideas and attitudes around the world that are much older and much more deeply ingrained, and often are faced with resentments much older than 1776, that year when we became a nation instead of a group of colonies of a mother country in Europe. The militant fundamentalists who brought down the World Trade Center are still obsessed with the Crusades of the 1300s and the decline of the once dominant Islamic empire of Arabia. That was 700 years ago. We do not think of ourselves as crusaders but the Somali seemed to act that way in Mogadishu ten years ago when America's elite commandos suffered their most devastating defeat. The Islamic world still recalls vividly the humiliating defeat they experienced at Poitiers, France, on October 11, 732 when the army of Charles "The Hammer" Martel, King of the Franks defeated the Moors' cavalry and kept the hosts of Islam from conquering Western Europe.

Certainly, the invasion of Austria by the Ottoman Turks and their two defeats at Vienna, in 1529 and 1683, at the height of the Protestant Reformation, created many of the tensions that have marked the chaotic situation in the former Yugoslavia. This is the conflict that has created the recent problems in Croatia, Serbia, Herzegovina, Bosnia, and Kosovo. But how many of the readers of our popular press or the viewers of the "talking heads" on 24/7 news

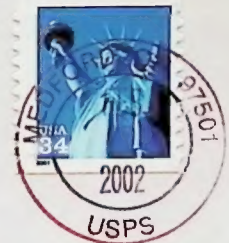
Continued on page 8

*Catch the Fever!*



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